

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

An image processing method has the steps of dividing the image information into data of sound pixels and data of defective pixels, calculating an interpolation signal value of each of the defective pixels on the basis of data of a plurality of sound pixels existing in the surrounding area, calculating a provisional correction value on the basis of the signal value and the interpolation signal value of each of the defective pixels, and calculating a modified pixel correction value of each of the defective pixels on the basis of the provisional correction value of each of the defective pixels and the provisional correction value of neighboring defective pixels, and correcting the data of each of the defective pixels by the use of the modified pixel correction value.